

To: Fraser Valley Regional District Board

Date: 2020-04-28

From: Tareq Islam, Director of Engineering and Community Services File No:

Subject: Essential Services Mutual Aid Agreement with District of Hope, District of Kent, and Village of Harrison Hot Springs

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board authorize its signatories to execute an Essential Services Mutual Aid Agreement with the District of Hope, District of Kent, and Village of Harrison Hot Springs as per Ministerial Order to ensure that wastewater and drinking water services are maintained during the period of the declaration of a state of emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community
Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

PRIORITIES

Priority #2 Air & Water Quality
Priority #1 Waste Management

BACKGROUND

A public health emergency was declared in the Province of British Columbia on March 17, 2020. On March 18, BC Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth declared a province-wide state of emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. As per Ministerial Order MO 084 Section 7, each local authority must use best efforts to enter into mutual aid agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions to ensure that wastewater and drinking water services are maintained during the period that the declaration of a state of emergency.

DISCUSSION

Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD), with all member municipalities' paramount commitment, is to maintain essential services to the region while protecting the health and safety of our employees and partners.

FVRD continues to closely monitor the developments regarding COVID-19 and is taking proactive steps to ensure critical service levels, including the delivery of drinking water and the management of liquid and solid waste, are maintained at all times.

FVRD takes guidance from the Ministry of Health, Fraser Health, and is in constant collaboration with Emergency Management BC, and related agencies to ensure a coordinated, considerate, and thoughtful response. FVRD is also in regular communication and collaboration with member municipalities regarding the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Based on the current situation, FVRD would like to develop an Essential Services Mutual Aid Agreement between FVRD, District of Hope, District of Kent, and Village of Harrison Hot Springs to ensure that wastewater and drinking water services are maintained during the period that the declaration of a state of emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic.

COST

There are no costs for entering into this agreement. As per section 14 of the Agreement, the Requesting Party shall reimburse the Responding Party for all costs, including wages and any consumable items used during the Emergency Situation or any equipment that is damaged beyond repair or destroyed as a result of the event.

COMMENTS BY:

Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Programs: Reviewed and supported.

Jaime Reilly, Manager of Corporate Administration: Reviewed and supported.

Kristy Hodson, Acting Director of Financial Services: Reviewed and supported.

Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer: Reviewed and supported.